House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article VII of the State Constitution to provide an additional circumstance for assessing homestead property at less than just value.

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Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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That the following amendment to Section 4 of Article VII of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.--By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

- (a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.
- (b) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.
- (c) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at

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just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as provided herein.

- (1) Assessments subject to this provision shall be changed annually on January 1st of each year; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed the lower of the following:
- a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior year.
- b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
 - (2) No assessment shall exceed just value.
- (3) After any change of ownership, as provided by general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the following year, unless the application of paragraph (8) yields an initial lesser assessment. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided herein.
- (4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1st of the year following the establishment of the homestead, unless the application of paragraph (8) yields an <u>initial lesser assessment</u>. That assessment shall only change as provided herein.
- (5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

assessed as provided herein.

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- (6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.
- (7) The provisions of this amendment are severable. If any of the provisions of this amendment shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this amendment.
- (8) When a person sells his or her homestead property within this state and within two years purchases another property and establishes such property as homestead property, the newly established homestead property shall, in the first year the homestead is established, be initially assessed at less than just value, as provided by general law. However, the initial assessment may not be less than the assessment applicable to the prior homestead property at the time of sale. To qualify for such initial lesser assessment, the just value of the new homestead property at the time of purchase must not exceed the just value of the prior homestead property at the time of sale, the person selling the prior homestead property must not have previously received the initial lesser assessment authorized by this paragraph for a homestead property, the new homestead property and the prior homestead property must be in the same county, and the total building square footage of the new homestead property must not exceed one hundred ten percent of the total building square footage of the prior homestead property. Following the initial lesser assessment, the new homestead property shall be assessed as provided in this

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subsection.

- (d) The legislature may, by general law, for assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of character or use. Such character or use assessment shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law.
- (e) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of that property which results from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:
- (1) The increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of the property.
- (2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the property as improved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be placed on the ballot:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE VII, SECTION 4

TAXATION; HOMESTEAD PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS.--Proposing an

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amendment to the State Constitution to provide for assessing at less than just value property purchased within 2 years after the sale of homestead property if the new property is established as homestead and if the initial lesser assessment of the new property is not less than the assessment applicable to the prior homestead at the time of sale and to provide that the just value of the new homestead must not exceed the just value of the prior homestead, that the person selling the prior homestead must not have previously received the initial lesser assessment, that both the new homestead and prior homestead must be in the same county, and that the total building square footage of the new homestead must not exceed 110 percent of that square footage of the prior homestead.